

UNICORN · COLONIAL · FITZPATRICK

# BERKSHIRE

## THEATRE GROUP

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**For immediate release, please: Thursday, January 16**

**Love Yourself Art Exhibition Opening  
February 9  
At The Colonial Theatre**

**Pittsfield, MA**– Berkshire Theatre Group (BTG) is thrilled to present the second annual Love Yourself Art Exhibition opening on **Sunday, February 9 from 2pm-4pm** at The Colonial Theatre. This event is free and open to the public.

Arts in Recovery for Youth (AIRY) Founder and Director Marney Schorr will speak about youth suicide prevention, along with youth artist Sophia Bilia, who will share her experience of being in recovery for eating disorders. AIRY is an arts-based suicide prevention program for teens and young adults that fosters resilience and community building.

Performances include: the BTG Youth Chorus; live poetry by Jack Kelly, Ayah Lehtonen and other AIRY alumni; original songs by Grace Ida Marks, Jake Madison and more TBA; and an original dance piece by Dancers of the Berkshires called *Support: the Act of Bearing Weight of or Strengthening*.

There will also be a screening of the AIRY digital film, *The Story of Indigo Phoenix*, which explores social issues, the emerging teen identity and creating a sense of belonging through peer support.

Love Yourself Art Exhibition is a celebration of youth empowerment through creative arts, and the art will be created by students in AIRY: Rachael Bentz, Jacl Kelly, Jalencia Melendez, Kiara Bresett, Amy Lacrosse, Jake Madison and Sophia Bilia.

Mentoring artists of Love Yourself will also have visual response art on view, including: Ellen Joffe Halpern, Caroline Kelley, Tammara Leminen, Leo Mazzeo, Misa Chappell, Peggy Morse and Marney Schorr.

Love Yourself will be on display in the lobby of the Colonial from **February 7 until March 20**. Sales will benefit AIRY and BTG PLAYS! education programs.

Love Yourself is a part of BTG's No Boundaries in Art (NBIA) series, and was curated by Stephanie Cohen. NBIA is sponsored by WealthE from Berkshire Money Management.

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### **About Berkshire Theatre Group**

The Colonial Theatre, founded in 1903, and Berkshire Theatre Festival, founded in 1928, are two of the oldest cultural organizations in the Berkshires. In 2010, under the leadership of Artistic Director and CEO Kate Maguire, the two organizations merged to form Berkshire Theatre Group (BTG). Berkshire Theatre Group's mission is to support wide ranging artistic exploration and acclaimed performances in theatre, dance, music and entertainment. Every year, BTG produces and presents performances to over 68,000 attendees and, through our Educational Program, serves over 13,000 Berkshire County school children annually.